

STIP
CC: JM

Subject: Public Comment on STIP

Date: Sat, 18 Sep 1999 12:31:23 -0700

From: "Carolyn Smith" <cityvalek@nushtel.com>

To: <joe_perkins@dot.state.ak.us>




JP
Tom B

Attached please find a letter of comment from the City of Aleknagik re:
STIP draft- Needs and Priorities.

Thanks,

Carolyn Smith, Administrator

SW 068

 <u>ltrdotcommisioner.doc</u>	<p>Name: ltrdotcommisioner.doc</p> <p>Type: Microsoft Word Document (application/msword)</p> <p>Encoding: base64</p>
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9/17/99

Joe Perkins, Commissioner
State of Alaska DOT/PF
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Commissioner Perkins,

On behalf of the Council members of the City of Aleknagik, I would like to comment on the current draft of the State of Alaska Transportation Needs and Priorities document that was provided for public review and comment.

Jack Melton, the SW area planner, was kind enough to come out here and explain the process to us and assist us in providing comment.

First, the Council (and members of the community) would like to reiterate the need for the Wood River Bridge. The Bridge project has been the number 1 Capital priority for Aleknagik for the past 13 or so years. We appreciate the insertion of the project into the proposed SHS division, but only if it increases the score and possibly will speed the construction of the bridge. In reviewing the proposed scoring criteria, the Wood River Bridge is significant in that it will:

- a. allow residents on the North Shore of the lake to drive to Dillingham, thus increasing employment, and economic benefit
- b. improve the health and quality of life, by allowing roadway medical transport
- c. improve the safety of commuters, by eliminating the crossing of the lake during difficult weather, such as interim weak ice. (* 8 deaths have been recorded in the lake since 1930- nearly all winter deaths)
- d. This will link 2/3 of the village by road to the big airport in Dillingham,
- e. This project will allow the City to operate one clinic, one maintenance facility, one set of heavy equipment, and best of all, one landfill. (we now duplicate these services)

Please note that the bridge construction is very important to residents of Aleknagik.

Next on the priorities for Aleknagik is the construction of a roadway to the planned **North Shore Sludge lagoon, and Landfill**. Assuming funding of the Bridge, this is number one in our list of priorities at this time. We are awaiting the outcome of the VSW grant process this year to hopefully, allow the allocated DOT funds to get the roadway and sludge lagoon started.

We have as the current number two priority, the Foxville Roadway Extension to a planned floatplane dock, base and parking area. There has been an explosion of tourism in this area and that has increased the use of floatplanes and boats in the populated areas of the village. There has been no accident to date, but the potential for one is high, with planes and boats using the Lake Aleknagik DNR site that is currently under construction. (Lake Aleknagik Scenic Overlook, boat launch and parking lot.) To remove floatplane traffic from the boat area, we propose the development of a site that will pull plane traffic away from the current roadway. We plan to apply for CBDG funding for feasibility/engineering studies to be done for this project,

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The third project the Community really would like is either an extension or separate building for airport maintenance equipment. Most other villages have a separate hanger for this purpose- we provide our City building for the State grader, and other equipment.

Finally, a project that has been dropped but would be an immense benefit to the community is the "Mile 8 to 23 Hard Surfacing" of the Aleknagik/Dillingham road. This project was lopped off the STIP and is needed for safety and economic reasons, as it will link the communities, and cut down commute time for the residents of the village to go to work in "town."

We hope that you will increase the scoring for the bridge, score the Floatplane base favorably, and thank you for your time in reviewing these projects.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tinker,
Mayor

Council Members:

Helen Chythlook, Roland Moody, Dan Togiak, Fred Bartman, Jason Gorman, Margie Aloysius

Cc: Senator Lyman Hoffman, Representative Mary Sattler Kapsner